

REMARKS

The claims in the case are claims 1-9. The claims were amended in the preliminary examination. The claims have been amended further to eliminate multiple dependency and to put them in better form for U.S. filing.

No new matter is included.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF

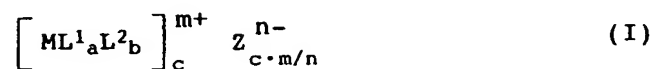
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H B Keil', is written over the printed name.

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1. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula I



where

M is a metal of group VIII;

L¹ is cyclooctadiene;

each L² is independently tetrahydrofuran or a ligand which is displaceable by tetrahydrofuran;

Z is an anion;

a is 1 or 2;

b is an integer from 0 to 4;

c is 1 or 2; and

m and n are integers from 1 to 4.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 where

M is Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd or Pt.

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~either of the preceding claims~~ where L² is selected from

tetrahydrofuran, nitriles, CO, alkenes, amines, ethers, carboxylic esters, cyclic carbonic esters, epoxides, hemiacetals, acetals and nitro compounds.

4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3 where L² is selected from acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran and CO.

5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ where Z is a halide, sulfonate of the formula OSO₂R, where R is alkyl, partially or fully halogenated alkyl or aryl, carboxylate, complexed borate, complexed phosphate, complexed arsenate or complexed antimonate, with the proviso that not all Z radicals are halide.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least one Z radical is a perfluoroalkylsulfonate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate or hexafluoroantimonate.

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ where the catalyst is selected from
 $[\text{Pd}(\text{II})(\text{cod})(\text{THF})_x](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ and
 $[\text{Pd}(\text{II})(\text{cod})(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_x](\text{PF}_6)_2$
where
cod is cyclooctadiene,
THF is tetrahydrofuran and
x is an integer from 1 to 3.
8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ where the formaldehyde source is formaldehyde, trioxane or paraformaldehyde.
9. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula
 $[\text{Ir}(\text{III})\text{Cp}^*\text{Cl}_2\text{Ir}(\text{III})\text{Cp}^*\text{Cl}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$
where
Cp* is pentamethylcyclopentadienyl.